

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 A-01

OPR-02 SY-05 MCT-01 OC-06 CCO-00 SIL-01 LAB-04

EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 HA-05 /099 W

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R 081400Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4706

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION USNATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 1095

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, PINS, SOCI, BU

SUBJECT: REPORTS OF STRIKES AND INCIDENTS IN BULGARIA

REF: A) SOFIA 817; B) SOFIA 860; C) SOFIA 978; D) SOFIA 1003

1. REPORTS ARE CIRCULATING AMONG BULGARIANS OF THREE
FURTHER RECENT INCIDENTS OF DISORDER AND DEFIANCE OF ZHIVKOV
GOVERNMENT WITHIN PAST FEW WEEKS, IN ADDITION TO STRIKES
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(REF A) AND STUDENT ACTIVITIES (REF D) PREVIOUSLY REPORTED.

2. STRIKES WERE REPORTED AT GIANT KREMIKOVTSI COMPLEX,
NEAR SOFIA, AND AT VITOSHA CLOTHING PLANT, IN SOFIA ITSELF.
BOTH STRIKES WERE SHORT AND PRIMARILY OVER WAGES, ALTHOUGH
GENERAL ECONOMIC POLICIES OF ZHIVKOV GOVERNMENT WERE PART
OF ISSUE. SOME 14,000 WORKERS ARE REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN

INVOLVED AT KREMIKOVTSI. BASIS OF THESE STRIKES AND OTHERS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED AT PLEVEN AND STARA ZAGORA IS IMPLEMENTATION OF WAGE PLAN ANNOUNCED BY GOB ABOUT A YEAR AGO, ENACTED INTO DECREE LAST FALL, AND IMPLEMENTED GRADUALLY THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY SINCE THEN. NEW PLAN TIES SALARY CLOSER TO INDICES OF PERFORMANCE AND MEANS THAT SUPERVISOR MAY DETERMINE PERIODICALLY AT WHAT LEVEL EMPLOYEE SHOULD BE PAID BETWEEN FLOOR AND CEILING WAGE RANGE FOR PARTICULAR JOB. THIS HAS MEANT INCREASES FOR SOME AND CUTS FOR OTHERS, CAUSING MOSTLY DISCONTENT, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF GENERAL RISING TREND OF PRICES.

3. THIRD RATHER DIFFERENT INCIDENT REPORTEDLY OCCURRED AT DISTRICT CAPITAL KURDZHALI DURING MAY 3-5 VISIT OF TURKISH PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT TO BULGARIA (REFS B AND C). GROUP OF TURKS CARRIED OUT PUBLIC DEMONSTRATION TO TRY TO ATTRACT ECEVIT'S ATTENTION TO PLIGHT OF TURKISH MINORITY IN BULGARIA (A TOPIC THAT, IN FACT, ECEVIT DID RAISE WITH ZHIVKOV--PARA 9, REF C). ACCORDING TO REPORT, BULGARIAN MILITSIA SHARPLY PUT DOWN DEMONSTRATION, KILLING THREE OF THE TURKS IN THE PROCESS.

GARTHOFF

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NNN

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